

'Urban Cowgirl' Sings Country

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Connie Hanson, the memorable redhead, Marshalene, in the movie, "Urban Cowboy," has her first record out.

And it's about the honky-tonk lifestyle John Travolta enjoyed in the movie, except this is from a woman's perspective.

The record is "Honky-Tonk for Women," a hard-core country music song about a "pressure cooker."

A "pressure cooker" is a club where women congregate during the day after getting their husbands off to work and the kids off to school. It's called a "pressure cooker" because the women can put meat in a pressure cooker, go have their fun and still serve a fine evening meal that looks like it took a day's work in the kitchen.

"It's a terrific song — a true and traditional country song with the traditional country sound," Miss Hanson said in a telephone interview from Houston, where she lives. "It's a dance hall kind of song."

Miss Hanson is best known as the curvaceous waitress in "Urban Cowboy," whose key scene was a rendezvous in a trailer with an ex-convict who was Travolta's rival.

"Urban Cowboy" wasn't a singing role for me," she said.

"The movie was a terrific break for me and now I can let people know I'm a singer and I always have been," she said. "I've been working on this record for two years, and it's surprised a lot of people."

"I'm concentrating on my music right now, but if another movie comes



CONNIE HANSON

along, I'll consider it." About the time she made "Urban Cowboy," Miss Hanson had a role in "Hot Wire" starring George Kennedy.

"I was typecast," she said. "I played a very loose waitress. I get mad sometimes because down through the years call girls and prostitutes in the movies are always redheads."

A natural redhead, she got the part in "Urban Cowboy" through an unusual series of events.

She was driving in Houston one day when she heard on the radio that auditions would begin in 20 minutes for 18-year-olds interested in being in the movie. She hurried to the auditions and noticed she was older than the others.

"I said, 'How stupid I am!' and started to walk across the highway to the car when guys began whistling at me. So I thought, 'Not bad! I went back and fudged on my age.'"

Two days later she had the part. She won't give her age, but she has four children, the oldest 15, and says she's three years younger than former schoolmate, actress Jaclyn Smith.

"I don't think they ever did know I lied about my age," she said.

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New Movies Being Filmed

By NANCY ANDERSON
Copley News Service

Israeli actress Chana Eden has been signed to play Kirk Douglas' lost love in the new TV-movie "Remembrance of Love." The NBC movie began production in Tel Aviv earlier this month, despite the troubles in the Mideast.

Doris Quinlan is the producer.

Louis Jourdan, the host of the new "Romance Theater" TV series is now shooting the introductions to all the segments at once so that he can report to the set of the new movie he's making.

The movie is the next James Bond film called "Octopussy," and it is being filmed in England, India and Germany.

Juliet Prowse has opened her new nightclub at the Sands Hotel in Atlantic City, N.J., and strangely enough, Juliet rehearsed the act at a United Methodist Church in Hollywood.

Tony Edwards, the producer of Blake Edwards' new movie "Trail of the Pink Panther," has been busy flying between Hollywood and London three times in one recent week as he's setting up a 20th anniversary Pink Panther celebration to coincide with the Christmas release of the new film.

Mark Shelmerdine, the owner of all of the late Alexander Korda's films, has announced he's making them available to American TV.

The package includes 31 of Korda's movies.

Although the Kendall's current album is called "Stinkin' Together," Royce and Jeannie went their separate ways on their recent vacation.

Royce and his wife took a boating holiday at Center Lake, Tenn., and Jeannie and her husband went to Daytona Beach, Fla., to sun and ride three-wheelers.

But the award-winning duo will be back together again this fall performing at state fairs in Ohio, Kansas, Wyoming and Nebraska.

Since tenor Buck Buckles is out for an indefinite period of time following bypass surgery, the group Memphis has added Dave Ponder to their lineup on a semi-permanent basis.

Ponder has sung with The Tennesseans, The Stamps, The Capitols and Ponder, Sykes and Wright. The Memphis lineup now includes Ponder, lead singer Pal Rakes, keyboardist T.C. Crabb and guitarist George Montana.

Actress Shares Winkler's View

By NANCY ANDERSON
Copley News Service

HOLLYWOOD — Henry Winkler will be surprised to learn that he is indirectly shaping the NBC series, "Cheers," starring Shelley Long and Ted Danson.

Henry doesn't even work for NBC. His TV series, "Happy Days," is on a rival network, ABC, yet he's indirectly affecting script discussions at the Proud Peacock's roost through the lessons Long learned watching him.

His leading lady in his new feature film, "Night Shift," Long discovered that "Henry cares passionately about his work" and would put his prestige on the line when he felt the situation so required.

"Night Shift" had an ending Winkler didn't particularly like, Shelley says, so he put up a fight to get it changed.

"Some people might have thought Henry was being egotistical or overbearing," the admiring Long says, "but if they felt that, that was their problem. Not his. For Henry isn't egotistical at all."

"He does, however, care a great deal about the work he does, and wants it to be right. So he spoke up."

The producers put Shelley on the spot by asking her what she thought about the ending planned for the film.

"And I told them," she says, "that I thought Henry was right."

As a comparative newcomer to stardom, she admits that she might not have spoken quite so quickly had she thought Winkler were wrong. But she hopes she would have spoken.

The producers, Long recalls, held that it would have been impractical, if not impossible, to change the ending of their film at that point, Long continues.

"But a funny thing happened. Word came down higher up to change the ending, so we got the strong ending that Henry had wanted."

Winkler's outspoken attitude during "Night Shift" production is going to affect "Cheers" because it taught Long to be outspoken.

So now, she says, she's arguing for series script changes which she believes will help the show.

The scripts haven't been quite up to her expectations, "And Ted and I have been talking about this," Long says, making mention of her co-star Danson.

"We are supposed to be the stars of the show. We were the first cast, so it's important that our relationship be handled properly."

"I don't want people to call me a troublemaker, but, like Henry, I want to do good work, so I felt justified in expressing my opinions."

Just how much influence her opinions will have on future scripts remains to be seen.

Brothers Les and Glen Charles who were head writers for and producers of "Taxi" are executive producers of "Cheers" and have written some of the scripts, but, with their other responsibilities, they can't write them all.

"Our style of writing requires a lot of the cast," says Glen. "Characterization is the key."

That style of scripting

should be fine with Long. She's a cast member who requires a lot of the writers.

Depressed because she didn't like her job, Pamela Roylance, a newcomer to Mike Landon's "Little House," almost ate herself out of the job she wanted — one in films or television.

Pamela, playing Sarah Carter, will move into the "Little House" this fall with fictional husband, John, and two children, the Carters having bought the place from Charles Ingalls.

Daughter of a restaurant owner, Roylance grew up in a food-oriented atmosphere, but she'd never had a weight problem until she came to Los Angeles in hopes of becoming an actress and wound up working in a chocolate factory.

Her goal wasn't totally reasonable, because she had a degree in speech and drama and had been active in community theater in Portland, Ore., where she'd taught remedial reading at the high school level.

Being a high school teacher was all right, since it allowed Roylance time to pursue her hobby, acting.

But two years ago she decided that acting should be more than her hobby. It should be her profession, so she asked for a leave of absence from teaching and moved to Los Angeles.

Her family, she reports, didn't object to her seeming madness but actually encouraged her to give acting a try.

In Los Angeles, Pamela became active again in community theater, but, since it didn't pay the bills, she got a job at a chocolate factory where, to console herself because she wasn't becoming a star, she sampled the product entirely too regularly.

Her performance in a community theater play, "Dear Ruth," brought her to the attention of Mike Landon who was assembling a reconstructed cast for "Little House," which he is leaving this year.

"He liked me, but he told me I was too heavy," Roylance says candidly.

So, even before she'd been promised the part in "Little House," she left the chocolate factory and went on a rigid diet.

"I lost between nine and 11 pounds in a week," she reports with satisfaction. She auditioned for the Sarah Carter role June 8 and three weeks later got it.

"I'm so proud of the fact that my first series is 'Little House,'" says Pamela. "My parents weren't worried about the kinds of roles I might play when I went to Los Angeles, but they, too, are glad that I'm in a show like this one."

"My whole family has watched 'Little House on the Prairie' since its beginning."

TV TEASERS

By W. WILSON CASEY
Copley News Service

"Big Valley," a western series, centered around what family on the show? Stars included Barbara Stanwick, Lee Majors, Richard Long and Peter Breck.

2. Who starred as Daniel Boone's (Fess Parker) wife, Becky, on the frontier series "Daniel Boone?"

3. David McCallum starred as a scientist on "The Invisible Man" whose experiments condemned him to be a highly-sought-after member of a research corporation that took on government contracts. What was McCallum's name as the brilliant scientist on the show?

ANSWERS

1. Barkleys
2. Patricia Blair
3. Daniel Westin

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HOLLYWOOD'S FINEST — Guest stars, left to right, Dan Aykroyd, John Candy, Gilda Radner, Cheech Marin and Thomas Chong salute the screen's most outrageous moments in Paramount Pictures' "It Came from Hollywood," a monument to filmdom's outer limits in scenes from almost 100 of the most unforgettable and outlandish movies ever made.

'Cheers' Star Passes Bar Test

By NANCY ANDERSON
Copley News Service

HOLLYWOOD — If Ted Danson ever finds acting slow, he might augment his income mixing mean martinis.

'Dallas' Star Really Owns Texas Ranch

By JERRY BUCK

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Susan Howard is one person from "Dallas" who really does own a ranch in Texas.

Miss Howard stars as Donna Culver Krebs on the hit CBS series about the oil-rich Ewing family of Southfork Ranch. She and her husband, movie executive Calvin Cecil Chran, own a 62-acre ranch near her hometown of Marshall, Texas.

"We bought it when I was on 'Petrocelli,'" she said. "My mother's in the real estate business and she found it. We finished building in May. We sold all the cattle to my brother, so all we raise right now is feed."

Miss Howard joined "Dallas" in 1979 at the invitation of producer Leonard Katzman, who had also produced "Petrocelli." She appeared in just one episode the first year.

"Leonard called me up about the show," she said. "He sent me a script, but I didn't like the character. Four or five weeks later he called again and said he had written a script with me in mind."

Her character, a politically powerful widow, immediately established a relationship with Ray Krebbs, played by Steve Kanaly.

"I told Steve he shouldn't get married because his character was the only single man on the show," she said. "I told him to keep it that way."

She became a regular on the show, and her character married Krebbs.

Miss Howard says she was attracted to the character because she was a professional woman and the only one on "Dallas" who was not male-dominated.

"They'd never before had a woman who was on her own," she said. "Now the most important thing in her life is her marriage. We got a lot of feedback in the beginning that that was missing."

"Ray Krebbs had a lot of problems," she said. "He didn't have his identity because he was not recognized as a son of Jock Ewing. But people told us they didn't want to see that. Now he's recognized as a son and received his inheritance. Everybody wants to see the good guy — the cowboy is emerging again. A real caring for values is emerging and that's what's happening in our roles."

There is, of course, no love lost between Donna Krebbs and J.R. Ewing, played by Larry Hagman. She was a politically powerful widow and writer — the widow of a politician and the stepmother of a U.S. senator.

In preparation for his role in "Cheers," a new NBC-TV comedy to debut this fall, Ted attended the American Bar Tending School where he graduated second in his class.

"A girl came in first," he notes humbly. "To pass, I had to mix 12 drinks in seven minutes."



TED DANSON

While learning to do that, he also had to master the demeanor of a successful bartender.

"I was told not to talk about religion, politics or anything interesting," he says of his learning.

He was also advised that the bartender always has an advantage over the imbibor, "because there's a bar between him and the customer."

Danson underwent the training program, because in "Cheers" he plays the bartender in a sports-oriented bar in Boston.

He's joined by Shelley Long, currently being seen in "Night Shift," who plays a previously sheltered college teaching assistant who has shucked academia to become a cocktail waitress.

"Cheers" may be the show to bring most cheer to NBC this fall, because, with roles played out by a talented ensemble, it has the flavor of "Barney Miller," "Mary Tyler Moore" and "Taxi."

Danson's father was director of Northern Ari-

Pelts bring \$62 million

During the past year the fur auction at Oslo, Norway, has sold 765,000 mink, 500,700 farm-fox and 26,400 many directing credits in wild-animal pelts for a total clude 75 episodes of "Taxi," of \$62.5 million. West Ger- is executive producer-diman customers took 27 per- cent of the exported mink The three collaborated pelts and Japanese buyers 36 to create and develop the series.

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